

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A permanent magnet comprising:
a rare earth metal-based permanent magnet ~~having provided on the surface thereof; and~~
a chemical conversion film provided directly on a surface of said magnet, said chemical conversion film containing, at least as the constituent components thereof, (a) at least one metal selected from the group consisting of molybdenum, zirconium, vanadium, and tungsten; (b) a rare earth metal from the rare earth metal-based permanent magnet; and (c) oxygen,
wherein there is no aluminum film provided between the surface of the magnet and the chemical conversion film.

Claim 2 (original): A permanent magnet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said film further contains phosphorus.

Claim 3 (original): A permanent magnet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said film further contains iron.

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Claim 4 (original): A permanent magnet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said film is provided at a film thickness of from 0.001 μm to 1 μm .

Claim 5 (original): A permanent magnet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rare earth metal-based permanent magnet is a R-Fe-B based permanent magnet.

Claim 6 (original): A permanent magnet as claimed in claim 5, wherein said R-Fe-B based permanent magnet is a Nd-Fe-B based permanent magnet.